



Spilyay Tymoo

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Travel Plaza opening in March

The Plateau Travel Plaza will open in just a few short weeks. This will be the first new business enterprise of the Confederated Tribes—really a sister enterprise of Indian Head Casino—in a number of years.

And the benefits are already being realized. The casino and Travel Plaza hosted four jobs fairs over the past several weeks, and there was a great turnout among the prospective employees.

There are about 70 jobs at the Travel Plaza. All but seven have been filled by tribal members, said Eric Angel, Travel Plaza general manager.

Many of the new employees are young people. For some of them this will be their first jobs. For others the Travel Plaza offers a chance at a new career.

Lori Courtney-Rose worked for more than 20 years at the Forest Products mill. Over the years she took on positions of increasing responsibility. She lost her job in 2016



Reviewing operation procedures at the Travel Plaza convenience store: fuel attendant Ronald Maitland, cashier Waylon Winishut, lead cashier Susan Wommak, shift supervisor Desirae Wallace, and shift supervisor Amber Henson (from left).

when the mill closed.

Her husband works as a mechanic, and Lori could have chosen to retire after the mill shut down.

"But I have to be doing something—I like having a job," Lori was saying earlier this week.

She is now one of the shift su-

pervisors at the Plateau Travel Plaza, which is scheduled to open to the public on March 24.

— Dave McMechan

School meeting at Academy

A Jefferson County School District community engagement meeting is this Wednesday evening, February 28, at the Warm Springs Academy.

There will be a dinner starting at 5:30, with district data and other information available for review. The meeting will then start at 6:30.

The meeting is for discussion and the evaluation of current programs, and plans for the future—a chance for school teachers and officials to hear suggestions about what programs are working, and ideas for improvement.

Attendance project

Ramona Halcomb, Indian Education Specialist with the Oregon Department of Education, visited with Tribal Council earlier this month. She talked about two state grant-funded programs of the Jefferson County School District 509-J:

One of the programs—the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project—is now in its second year; and the other—career pathways for teachers—is in the planning phase, and will then continue for at least two additional years.

The idea for the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project came about after a 2013 study—called the Condition of Education for Oregon's Tribal Students—conducted by the Chalkboard Project, in cooperation with tribes and school districts.

At the time a key finding of the study was that on average nearly one-third of Native American students, in all grades, were 'chronically absent.'

Chronically absent means missing 10 percent or more of school days. For comparison with the Native American rate, the chronic absenteeism rate among all other students was 19 percent.

The intent of the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project is to strengthen the links between tribes and the school that serve the membership.

One aspect of the project is a tribal liaison who works with students and families that have shown absenteeism issues. The liaison for Warm Springs is Tony Cortizar.

The point is to find out what are the barriers to the student's attendance, and to address the situation.

Career pathways

A new program in the district is the career pathways collaboration grant. A team—the program design committee—is currently working on a plan to implement the program.

A successful plan would lead to two more years of funding for the implementation phase. A number of teachers from the Warm Springs Academy are the design committee.

See **TEACHERS** on 8

Pi-Ume-Sha Committee plans for 2018 powwow

The Pi-Ume-Sha Committee has started planning for the Forty-Nine Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, this year commemorating the One-Hundred and Sixty-Third year of the signing of the Treaty of 1855.

The theme this year is "Chuush iwa naami waq'ishwit" (Water is our life). Pi-Ume-Sha will be June 22-

24.

Co-chairs of the committee are Isaac Mitchell and John Katchia. Arena directors are Carlos Calica and Captain Moody.

Pi-Ume-Sha features the individual and team dance competitions, Ol' Style and other Specials, Men's Round Bustle and Women's

Shell Dress.

Favorite events are the Traditional Dress Parade, the Endurance Horse Race, Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo, boxing, golf tournament, fun run, and men's and women's softball.

This year the Museum at Warm Springs will have a special exhibi-

tion, as the museum is celebrating its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary.

The exhibit will be Memory of the Land: The Treaty of the Middle Columbia River Tribes and Bands.

Information contacts for Pi-Ume-Sha are Cassie Katchia and Louise Katchia.

Bufs teams in post season this week

Both the Madras White Buffalos varsity boys and girls teams have post-season games in the next few days.

In Round One of the state tournament, the girls will play Valley Catholic at home.

The game is at 6:30 p.m. this Friday, March 2.

The boys play at 3 p.m. this Saturday, March 3 at Banks. The boys last Friday won their play-in game against Tillamook, 95-86.

In that high-scoring game Kanim Smith III had 38 points; Danni Herkshan added 13, Byron Patt 11, and Donnie Bagley 10, among the high scorers.

After the games this Friday and Saturday, the state tournament continues on March 8 at Forest Grove High School/Pacific University.

In their high-scoring play-in win over Tillamook, the White Buffalo's Kanim Smith III led the team with 38 points, two picks, and three dunks (one of them pictured here at right).

Jayson Smith photo/Spilyay



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